UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In the Matter

of

Index No.

08-1789

THE SIPA LINK,

Debtors.

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February 4, 2009 United States Custom House One Bowling Green New York, New York 10004

Disinterestedness Hearing.

Trustee's motion pursuant to Sections 105(a) and 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 6006 Seeking Authority to Reject Executory Contracts on a Nunc Pro Tunc Basis, et cetera.

B E F O R E:

HON. BURTON R. LIFLAND,

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

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APPEARANCES:	
BAKER HOSTETLER	
New York, New York 10017	
DAVID J. SHEEHAN, ESQ.	
SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION	
805 15th Street, Suite 800	
Washington, D.C. 20005	
BY: KEVIN H. BELL, ESQ.	
AGULNICK & GOGEL, LLC	
Attorneys for Craig Kugel	
321 Broadway	
New York, New York 10017 ;	
BY: WILLIAM A. GOGEL, ESQ.	
WACHTEL & MASYR, LLP	
Attorneys for the Rosenman Family	
110 East 59th Street	
New York, New York 10022	
BY: HOWARD KLEINHENDLER, ESQ.	
	BAKER HOSTETLER Attorneys for the Trustee 45 Rockefeller Plaza New York, New York 10017 BY: IRVING H. PICARD, ESQand- DAVID J. SHEEHAN, ESQ. SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION 805 15th Street, Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20005 BY: KEVIN H. BELL, ESQ. AGULNICK & GOGEL, LLC Attorneys for Craig Kugel 321 Broadway New York, New York 10017 BY: WILLIAM A. GOGEL, ESQ. WACHTEL & MASYR, LLP Attorneys for the Rosenman Family 110 East 59th Street New York, New York 10022

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1	PROCEEDINGS		
2	THE COURT: The SIPA Link.		
3	MR. PICARD: Good morning, Your Honor.		
4	THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Picard.		
5	MR. PICARD: Irving Picard, trustee for		
6	the liquidation of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities,		
7	LLC.		
8	Your Honor, I would like to suggest that		
9	perhaps we do the disinterestedness matters first.		
10	THE COURT: Sure.		
11	MR. PICARD: Your Honor, then once we are		
12	are done with that, perhaps I can give a little status		
13	report.		
14	THE COURT: Please, I think people are		
15	expecting that.		
16	MR. PICARD: And then we could go into the		
17	other motions.		
18	THE COURT: Go ahead.		
19	MR. PICARD: Your Honor, my declaration of		
20	disinterestedness was filed approximately a month ago. As		
21	indicated in the application in our briefing book, it is		
22	item number 2, I have no conflicts within the statuary		
23	provisions of SIPA, nor if you ask me would I have any		
24	under the Bankruptcy Code, and there were no objections		
25	filed to the declaration, and I would ask that Your Honor		

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4 find that I am disinterested and able to continue in the 1 2 capacity as Trustee of this case. 3 THE COURT: Does anyone else want to be heard? 4 Hearing no response, your application is 5 6 granted. 7 MR. PICARD: Thank you, Your Honor. Mr. Sheehan will handle the other matters. 8 9 MR. SHEEHAN: Your Honor, as you have again in the briefing book, as item number 1, is the affidavit of 10 11 disinterestedness filed by myself and the firm that I am 12 partner in Baker Hostetler, evidencing that there are no 13 conflicts within the purview of the statute. Again, this has been filed for over a month 14 15 and we have not received any objections. 16 I move Your Honor to enter the order finding us to be disinterested and that we could continue 17 18 in our role as counsel to the Trustee. 19 THE COURT: I have reviewed the 20 applications, and I concur there is no element of 21 disinterestedness shown here to preclude the granting of 2.2 the request. 23 MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you, Your Honor. 24 MR. PICARD: Your Honor, I have the order 25 and a disk. I just noticed that it did not have a date on

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5 1 it, and if your chambers would put the date on it, we would 2 be obliged. 3 THE COURT: Yes, we could arrange for 4 that. Thank you. May I approach, 5 MR. PICARD: Your Honor? 6 7 THE COURT: Yes. I will entertain the order. 8 9 I have approved the order. MR. PICARD: Thank you, Your Honor. 10 11 During the approximately six or seven weeks 12 since I have been appointed, Your Honor, we have spent a 13 lot of time with the law enforcement authorities as well as some securities regulators, and a substantial amount of 14 15 time has been spent in those areas. 16 Within a day of my appointment the premises at the Lipstick Building at 885 Third Avenue was seized by 17 18 the FBI, the premises are deemed as a crime scene by the 19 U.S. Attorney's Office. So we are working under certain 20 constraints. We have worked out protocols so that we 21 could get access to the records. But there are parts of 2.2 the premises that we cannot go to, nor can anyone else 23 other than if you are escorted by the FBI on a need to know 24 or need to go basis. 25 Your Honor, that created certain problems

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with getting computer information that has now been resolved. We had a group go into a warehouse in Queens, I guess it was about ten days ago to inventory approximately 7,000 boxes of records, which were out there. Some news reports indicated there was some hush-hush project going on out there, but I assure you it was not hush-hush.

In the furtherance of the Trustee's duties, both for the statuary investigation, those records are important and, secondly, those records will be necessary in the claims process, reviewing claims and looking at account histories which will become a critical aspect of the customer complaint process.

In addition, probably what most people would like to hear about now is that during the course of this period we have been working with a number of banks and financial institutions to recover funds in Madoff Investment Securities accounts, and also the securities that were on deposit at the Depository Trust Company.

I am pleased to report that the earnings as of the close of business yesterday we had actually recovered about \$111,426,000. That if Your Honor approves several stipulations with the banks that are on the calendar this morning, we will have another almost \$535 million in cash. Those funds will be invested. They will be set aside, and their distribution will be subject

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to further court order. That court order may not come for quite a while. It is our intention to designate those funds as customer property and the distribution of those funds would be subject to under a SIPA statute of what is called an allocation application where money is allocated between the customer fund and the general estate.

As I said, Your Honor, and it is important to note that we will, it is our intention to have all these funds and funds from other assets that we are able to collect to go into the customer fund and be available to distribute to the customers who were victimized in this matter.

In addition, Your Honor, from the DTC last week we recovered securities that had an estimated market value at the time of approximately \$300 billion, between 15 and 16 million positions of which approximately 20 to 25 are probably illiquid securities, and over a period of time those securities are going to be liquidated and turned into cash.

It is my intention to take all the cash as we get it and invest it in short-term government or something that will give us a little bit of a return, so that we could build up the pot and have some additional funds that we could distribute to the customers.

These distributions to the customers, Your

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Honor, are over and above the amount of money that will be available from the SIPC fund. So if someone had, for example, an \$800,000 claim and they got \$500,000 of SIPC money, when we allocate down the road they would get a pro rata share to cover the \$300,000 balance.

As I said, that is our intention and it will be subject to a Court application and people can be heard at that time if they disagree with us.

We have begun, and it has been a number of weeks after the Trustee's statuary investigation. We are looking for the assets, where they are and how we could get them. We are looking into various causes of action that we may have against third parties, and we hope that in the very near future we will be coming before Your Honor with a proposal to sell the market-making operation, which is at the moment the one asset that we have our hands on that we think has some value and that perhaps we could get a little auction going for its sale. Again, Your Honor, those proceeds, it would be our intention to put into the customer fund.

There are two other matters, not necessarily having to do with what our activities have been and what we have now and what may be going on, is that there seems to be a misunderstanding both on the part of customers and the press with regard to what the bar date is

in this case.

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There is a statuary bar date in SIPA liquidations which goes six months from the date of the publication of notice. The publication of notice was on January 2, so the bar date in this case is July 2009.

The confusion I think arises from the fact that there is a provision in the statute which says that if you don't get your claim in by a certain date that the Trustee has some discretion on how to handle your claim, that is if it saves you some money maybe then you don't have to buy the securities, you could pay cash. At this time people should be focusing on the July 2, 2009 bar date as the one, rather than the preferred bar date.

The other item is, Your Honor, and we will be issuing a press release on this, hopefully, in the next day or so, we will not be issuing the IRS form 1099s. In my view and that of my consultants who have been working with me, the records are not accurate. They can't be verified, and we would be doing a disservice to everybody.

What we are telling our customers who are calling in, and we have a hotline that is being manned by Alix Partners, who are also working on the claims, is that in terms of how you deal with tax issues you have to contact your tax advisor.

We are not in a position to give any tax

advice to customers on what they should do about losses or whatever. The most important thing is within the next two weeks that people might be expecting to receive a 1099 form, and we are just not going to be issuing them.

I think one of the last points I would like to make is that through e-mails and telephone calls there seems to be a concern to people regarding, and I referred earlier to the SIPC case, if you will, the two estates.

One is called customer property and one is called the general estate. All of the expenses, the rent of the premises, the telephone telephones, the consultants, the lawyers, me, all those expenses are paid by SIPC out of its coffers because the statute says that if the general estate is not sufficient to pay the administration costs then SIPC has to pay. And when SIPC pays those expenses, those expenses are not going to be attached to the customer property.

So if we sell something for \$1 million, the gross proceeds, \$1 million will go into the customer pot.

That will then be available for the allocation and the distribution to customers. Unlike a typical bankruptcy case, where when the Trustee sells an asset, his expenses, his fees come out of the gross proceeds of the sale. So that he is only then going to distribute net proceeds.

I believe along the way in a case of this

11 size, that will be a very big distinction, and I would like 1 2 people to really keep that in mind that when we say that we 3 are paying money for rent, \$350,000 a month, approximately, 4 all of those costs are not coming at the expense of the customer property. 5 Thank you, Your Honor. 6 7 THE COURT: Does anyone else want to be heard? 8 9 Hearing no response, you could proceed with 10 your menu. There are before Your Honor 11 MR. SHEEHAN: 12 two applications with regard to the executory contracts. 13 The first one deals with an extension of a 60-day period. 14 As alluded to by Mr. Picard, we are operating under difficult circumstances, to say the least, 15 16 in getting access to the records. In an abundance of caution we seek this additional time so we don't incur a 17 forfeiture unnecessarily. There are no objections that I 18 19 am aware of. 20 I would again ask Your Honor to approve 21 that application and to grant us that additional time in 2.2 which to consider the executory contracts before we take 23 action. 24 THE COURT: Does anyone else want to be 25 heard?

12 1 Hearing no response, let me say that I have 2 reviewed the request and I find that under the 3 circumstances it is appropriate. I will entertain an 4 order for its approval. MR. PICARD: Thank you, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: I have approved the order. 6 7 MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you. The next application with regard to 8 9 executory contracts is very specific. It is an application to reject six very specific and as identified 10 in the papers car leases, automobile leases. 11 Those cars 12 were returned immediately by the Trustee upon his approval at the premises. They have been in the hands of lessors 13 14 since the inception of the case. Accordingly, what we are seeking to do here 15 today, Your Honor, is reject those leases nunc pro tunc, 16 back to the filing date of December 11, 2008. 17 18 There has been no objection, save one, and that is by an employee, Mr. Kugel. I think Your Honor is 19 20 probably familiar with that. But, just for the record, 21 Mr. Kugel was directed by Peter Madoff according to the 2.2 papers to sign the guarantee. 23 So as a result of this rejection, Mr. Kugel 24 is on the hook it appears for the guarantee of the lease. 25 There is nothing we could do about that. I don't think we

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13 1 have any comment, quite frankly, on that objection. 2 don't think it should interfere with the Trustee's ability 3 to exercise his statuary duty to reject this lease, which 4 would serve no purpose for the trustee to continue paying, even though it puts Mr. Kugel in jeopardy, Your Honor, 5 fully, and I have talked to Mr. Kugel personally about 6 7 this. I see it as his problem and not ours. THE COURT: Does anyone else want to speak? 8 9 MR. GOGEL: Yes, Your Honor, William Gogel. I am with the law firm of Agulnick & Gogel. I represent 10 11 Craig Kugel. 12 I think it is quite clear on paper when 13 Madoff directed Peter to execute this lease, it was executed on behalf of Madoff, LLC. He also signed it as a 14 It has never been his intention to sign as a 15 guarantor, but the reason he signed it was Rally Motors and 16 Mercedes Benz Financial rejected the application on behalf 17 of Madoff, LLC without a guarantor. 18 19 THE COURT: I think that everybody 20 understands that. 21 MR. GOGEL: But here --THE COURT: But his signing of these 22 23 documents is certainly an act of volition. It perhaps was 24 naive.

I have been asked to sign on behalf of

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14 relatives and I have refused, even though there was some 1 2 kind of imperative, and I wouldn't dare ask my wife to sign 3 anything because I know what she would tell me. This is an act of volition, and I have not 4 heard anything that he was mentally incapacitated and, 5 therefore, subject to a domineering employer. 6 7 MR. GOGEL: No, Your Honor but --THE COURT: There is no basis for the 8 9 objection to the rejection. MR. GOGEL: Judge, may I say one other 10 11 thing. In the rejection signed by Peter Madoff where Craig 12 Kugel signed the document, it directed him in the body of 13 it to sign a document that was required to have this lease executed, and Mercedes would not give the lease unless 14 15 there was a guarantor. Specifically, in the certification 16 of the resolution. THE COURT: Hello boss, they wouldn't ever 17 18 give it to me without a signature. 19 MR. GOGEL: Exactly. THE COURT: That is what he could have and 20 should have done. 21 The objection is overruled. MR. SHEEHAN: Your Honor, I realize upon 22 23 looking at the order it does not address Mr. Kugel's 24 objection. 25 What I would like is Your Honor's

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Pq 15 of 28 15 permission to submit an order that includes Your Honor's ruling with a new disk, and I will get it to you this afternoon. THE COURT: Very well. Submit the order. MR. GOGEL: Thank you. There are two other items MR. SHEEHAN: before the presentment, one of which is unopposed, it is an agreement we have with the Bank of New York with regard to the turnover to the trustee of the precise amount which is in the vicinity of \$300 million. We have agreed, Your Honor, because there could be third-party claims, as there are against the Chase Manhattan account. We have agreed to indemnify, "we" being not the Trustee but SIPC standing behind the Trustee, this will again not imperil any customer fund. But we stand behind that, and we will indemnify the bank should there be any third-party actions with regard to these specific funds. So the bank does not have to worry about being in peril of turning them over. Having reached that agreement and having the indemnity in place, the bank has agreed to turn the funds over to us. As I understand, there is no objection to this stipulation and I would ask Your Honor approve it.

THE COURT: Does anyone want to be heard? Hearing no response, the application is

16 1 granted. 2 MR. PICARD: May I approach the bench, 3 Your Honor? 4 THE COURT: Yes. I have approved the order. 5 MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you, Your Honor. 6 7 The last item for the agenda today is, in fact, a stipulation and presentment that we have provided 8 9 to your Honor with regard to a turnover, again, of bank funds, this time from J.P. Morgan Chase, it is the account, 10 11 basically operating account of Madoff Securities. 12 it is in the amount of approximately \$200 million, the exact amount would be in the papers and would be in the 13 14 order. The only thing that stands in the way of 15 16 that is an objection we received last night. I understand why, according to this, that counsel filed because we had 17 18 also filed last night a motion to dismiss the Rosenman 19 case. 20 Now, if I could put our position on the record since we did not have a chance to submit anything to 21 22 you. 23 At the outset when Mr. Kleinhendler 24 contacted me we had our position. Your Honor, we believe 25 this complaint is ill-founded as, obviously, we said in our

17 1 papers to you. 2 However, I understood Mr. Kleinhendler's 3 concern. We agreed to a stipulation to the extent those 4 funds were to weave in and be brought over to the trustee, we would keep \$10 million, even though it is all fungible. 5 And that is our argument, it is all one big body of 6 7 commingled funds. But in any event we would keep that, not 8 9 spend the \$10 million, it would sit there until Your Honor had at chance to resolve the issue in the adversary 10 11 proceeding. I don't see that having changed at all by 12 virtue of what is happening here. We stipulate to that. 13 The Trustee will honor that stipulation. The fact that the funds are being held at 14 15 Chase Manhattan Bank under Madoff Securities and 16 transferred over to the Trustee and would be held by him in another account, I don't see see that as jeopardizing what 17 18 counsel was suggesting is in place. I represent to your Honor we will not spend 19 20 the \$300 million any time too soon, and I think pretty soon 21 we will have this issue resolved. 2.2 So I would respectfully suggest that the 23 objection be overruled. 24 MR. KLEINHENDLER: Good morning, Your

Howard Kleinhendler, for the Rosenman family.

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Honor.

18 1 The objection I filed is limited. 2 concerned me --3 THE COURT: Limited with a capital L. 4 MR. KLEINHENDLER: Yes, with a capital L. What concerned me was some of the language 5 in this proposed order which could indicate that the Court 6 7 has already made certain determinations with regard to this \$10 million deposit. 8 9 For example, Your Honor, in some of the whereas clauses, the funds are referred to as the Debtors' 10 11 funds. They are going to be allocated as customer 12 property. 13 All I want to do, Your Honor, is have a placeholder and a clarification that regardless of the 14 15 language in the stipulation that is being proposed right 16 now, that will not affect the merits of my claim which is, basically, the money in the Chase account, that money 17 18 belongs to my client. It does not belong to the trustee. 19 It is not customer funds. It doesn't fall under the SIPC 20 statute, and as long as we know that argument has not been 21 given up, I have no problem then with the money moving from 2.2 Chase to an account controlled by the Trustee. That was 23 the point of the objection. 24 MR. SHEEHAN: Certainly, Your Honor, I 25 could agree that was not the purpose of the order. That

19 1 was not the purpose of the whereas clauses to somehow end 2 the claim of Mr. Rosenman here. 3 THE COURT: Which is already subject to the 4 stipulation --MR. SHEEHAN: Exactly, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: -- preserving at least \$10 6 I don't know why so much time and 7 million of funds. effort has been utilized to charge for these papers. Mr. 8 9 Rosenman has suffered enough, apparently, and he has to pay a little bit more for something that seems to be quite 10 11 self-evident. 12 The complaint is the subject of a motion to 13 dismiss. The issue, which is the ultimate issue, will either be the subject of a trial or of the motion to 14 15 So you are not out of Court. The Court will dismiss. 16 have an opportunity to rule on your position as soon as you respond to the motion to dismiss. 17 18 Your limited objection is overruled. 19 is not really founded. MR. SHEEHAN: Your Honor, I have another 20 21 problem with the order, I didn't anticipate the objection 2.2 because it was filed last night. 23 I will again give you a supplemental order, 24 including a new order which includes the denial of the 25 limited objection and the new disk this afternoon, the same

20 1 as in the other one. 2 THE COURT: If you have a paper order in 3 front of you, all you have to do is insert. 4 MR. PICARD: Your Honor, the problem with this is that it is a stipulation. 5 6 MR. SHEEHAN: Right. 7 MR. PICARD: So we will have to give you a 8 separate order. 9 THE COURT: Very well. Submit the order. MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you, Your Honor. 10 11 concludes our agenda for today, Your Honor. THE COURT: Well, before we conclude, I will 12 say that I think things are moving a little bit slower than 13 some people would have anticipated, at least on the public 14 15 I don't know really what is going on behind the front. 16 scenes. After all, there are so many agents and 17 18 agencies and units of government that are charged with 19 maximizing the recovery for redistribution to those who 20 have been importuned by this financial debacle, it's a 21 problem, it's now a Madoff scheme as opposed to a Ponzi 2.2 scheme. 23 I would hope all these groups are not 24 working at cross purposes, and I have a feeling because of 25 the media coverage, these things are like a hovering

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parent -- that all the agencies are not pulling together, and I would hope that there is going to be shown to the Court and to all of the courts that are involved that you are all working in harmony to maximize the recovery, and not working at cross purposes so as not to jeopardize whatever assets are out there because indeed those assets in my experience are wasting assets.

What is not typical in any bankruptcy case is that the administration expenses are not being charged to those that are laboring to bring monies back into the estate. So I would like the word to get out that I would hope that all parties start working in harmony and not in disharmony because wasting assets are something that could never, never be recovered. Thank you.

MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

MR. PICARD: Your Honor, there may be some people with questions. If we stay, can we use the courtroom for a little while.

THE COURT: I am not charging rent. This is another freebie.

MR. PICARD: Thank you, Your Honor.

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                      CERTIFICATE
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      STATE OF NEW YORK
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      COUNTY OF NEW YORK
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                          I, MINDY CORCORAN, a Shorthand Reporter
      and Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do
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 7
      hereby certify:
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                      That I reported the proceedings in the
9
      within entitled matter, and that the within transcript is a
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      true record of such proceedings.
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                      I further certify that I am not related, by
      blood or marriage, to any of the parties in this matter and
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      that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this
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      matter.
                      IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15
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      hand this 4th day of February, 2009.
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                          MINDY CORCORAN
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